

The Partnership to End Homelessness: A Day of Fun and Games for the Youngsters in Our Shelters



On August 1, AmeriCorps members from the Partnership to End Homelessness hosted 31 youngsters ranging in age from 5 to 17 for a day of fun and games and hot dogs. All of the youth who live in the shelters where our members serve were invited to attend. Parents were encouraged to come along and join the fun. The members especially wanted those kids who wouldn't have a chance to do something like this to come and have a good time. Members organized the day from start to finish and ran the games. The day started out with musical chairs to the tune of "Beat it" and it became clear that many of our kids have a real competitive streak. Relays followed where kids had to race to use a sponge to fill a water pitcher or where kids had to race to dress up and then undress before racing back to tag their team mates. There was a water balloon toss where the "losers" felt pretty good getting wet



because it was such a hot day. Following that was a bean bag toss that was a test of skill. There was a tug-of-war that became the defining moment for who had bragging rights. On top of all this, there were jump ropes, hula hoops, basketball, badminton, Frisbees, football, Simon Says, and a game to see how many marshmallows you can stuff in your mouth and still talk! Everyone had a great time and then enjoyed a grilled hot dog lunch prepared by the members. Even Congressman Howard Coble stopped by to have a hot dog and talk with some of the folks. After the games were finished, we gave away prizes. Everyone got school supplies that matched with their grade. Then all the kids spent several minutes playing "Look what I got."



It was a fun day for everyone. We had 15 volunteers, some of whom are members of next year's team, and some of whom brought their kids. All of the kids got along great. There was no distinction among them about who lived in a shelter and who didn't. They just had fun.

